

# THE American Freedman.

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NEW-YORK, MAY, 1868.

[No. 2.

## The American Freedman's Union Commission,

30 Vesey Street New-York City.

"The object of this Commission is the relief, education, and elevation of the Freedmen of the United States, and to aid and coöperate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No school or depot of supplies shall be maintained from the benefits of which any shall be excluded because of color."—ART. II., CONSTITUTION.

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## New-York Branch.

(Late National Freedman's Relief Association.)

ORGANIZED FEBRUARY 22, 1862.—INCORPORATED MARCH 23, 1865.

### OFFICE, No. 30 VESEY STREET, NEW-YORK.

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## The American Freedman.

### ANNUAL REPORTS.

THE New-York Branch held their annual meeting April 13th. We surrender most of the space usually occupied by the teachers' letters to the publication of the annual reports of the Society. The financial statements of the Treasurer and the Executive Committee are necessarily laid over, for want of room, to next month.

The New-England Branch held their annual meeting March 6th. Resolutions of earnest regret at the death of the former President of the Society, Gov. Andrew, were passed. Hon. Wm. Clafin was elected President; R. F. Wallcott, Secretary; E. W. Hooper, Treasurer. Rev. John G. Parkman is Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Mrs. E. D. Cheney, Secretary of the Teachers' Committee. The reports of the various committees were read, and from these reports, published in the April *Record*, we gather the following facts:

The Branch was able to commence the year out of debt. It has endeavored to secure a partial support for its schools from the colored people; but this experiment meets with but imperfect success, and can not be expected immediately to add greatly to the resources of the Society.

Earnest applications are made for the continuance of the schools during the summer months in some localities; but the danger to the health of Northern teachers is too great to allow of it. In order not to run the Society in debt, it was resolved to send out no teachers whose support was not in some way secured, and those not adopted by branch societies were engaged with the proviso, that if the funds failed they might be recalled. As yet, none have been recalled, and the Committee feel now an assured hope that none will be.

The supply is, however, by no means adequate to the demand; the law of political economy having, evidently, no application to philanthropic enterprises. From every State come demands for aid, with which, with a treasury never adequate to meet these innumerable demands, the Society is incompetent to comply. From the District of Columbia the Society has withdrawn, leaving the schools under the charge of the authorities. In Baltimore the schools have been similarly assumed by the city, but throughout the State they receive no aid from the local government, and suffer greatly from the political

reaction. In Virginia, the Society reports 24 teachers, and 1348 pupils, besides those of the Industrial School in Richmond. In North-Carolina, part of the field has been relinquished to the New-York Branch. In Georgia, a plan is on foot for the establishment of a Normal School at Columbus; and the Society has now in the training of its better scholars the object of educating them for teachers steadily in view. In South-Carolina, where the N. E. Society first began its work, that work continues with great efficiency. It is one of the good signs of the times that the city government in Charleston has assumed the Morris street school, even though the school has suffered somewhat in character by the change. Mr. Sumner continues his school in another building, and a fund raised by the colored people to erect a memorial to the honored and lamented Col. Robert G. Shaw, is appropriately set apart to the building of a school-house for that purpose, into which Mr. Sumner, it is hoped, will be able to move this spring. The number of teachers in South-Carolina is 34, who are educating 1974 pupils. The entire number of teachers in the South under this branch is 90; and they have in their schools, 5255 pupils, besides those in the sewing and industrial schools.

A word of sorrow and of honorable mention enrols the names of Mrs. Eunice H. Leland and Miss Annie M. Bullard among the honored dead, who have fallen in their places, giving their lives to this work of Christian love.

The amount of special relief extended has been comparatively inconsiderable, 69 packages all told.

A letter from the Bureau officer in Montgomery, Ala., is before us, stating the pressing need of teachers in that State. This gentleman is almost daily in receipt of appeals from different localities for teachers; and as no appropriation has been made to the Bureau for this purpose, he can only apply to benevolent associations in the North to supply the need, promising to make satisfactory arrangements for their comfort, etc.

What answer shall we give to this appeal?

The Philadelphia Branch are ready to assume the work, provided their constituency will give them the means.

### THE BUREAU.

HON. T. D. ELIOT, in a speech delivered in the House of Representatives in favor of the continuance of the Bureau, has gathered some facts and figures, which certainly afford the

most abundant and complete refutation of the charges of extravagant expenditure which have been brought against this necessary protector of the loyal minority of the South. Mr. Eliot, who is chairman of the Committee on Freedmen's affairs, has been from the beginning a most efficient laborer in the cause of equal rights, and has done in quiet and unrecognized ways much more for the true freedom of the freedmen, than some who have been more demonstrative and more before the public. He is rather a man of wise action than of many words.

"In presenting," said he, "this bill for the consideration of the House, I am instructed by the Committee on Freedmen's affairs to state in the outset, that its passage will involve no appropriation of money from the Treasury. The affairs of the Bureau have been conducted with such good judgment and economy since the time when General Howard entered upon the discharge of his duties, that there is now a sufficient fund in his hands from the moneys heretofore appropriated to enable the Commissioner to carry into effect the law during the term for which it will be extended if this bill shall pass, and I desire our friends to take notice of this fact. I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to leave the question of expense at this point. Ever since this Bureau went into operation, it has been the subject of attack throughout the Southern States, and throughout the Northern States, by men who were in sympathy with its enemies in the rebel territories, on the score of its expense. Not that alone. There has been no agency of this Government, since the first blow was struck at treason, which has brought upon itself so much malevolence and vindictive opposition on the part of its opponents.

"Mr. Speaker, when I was in discharge of the duty imposed upon me, last winter, in the Southern States, I had occasion to observe the feeling which existed on the part of those who were opposed to this Bureau. The loyalty of men at the South might be gauged safely enough and tested by the feelings and opinions which they entertained and expressed in regard to this Bureau. There has been no instrument of the Government so hated as this. There has been none which protected loyal men, whether white or black, as this Freedmen's Bureau has done; and because it has protected them, because it has aided the Government in its work of restoration, because it has furnished to these men, who had been slaves and had been made free by the war, a reasonable share of protection from their enemies, it has been assailed with a vindictiveness which is unparalleled in the history of legislation in this country."

After quoting from the President's speeches the charge that the establishment of the Bureau cost \$12,000,000, and its maintenance would involve a further expenditure of \$50,000 or \$60,000, Mr. Eliot proceeded as follows:

"And now let me call the attention of the

House to the facts. They show that since the organization of this Bureau, in the early part of 1865 down to the 1st of January, 1868, the whole amount of money drawn from the Treasury, expended by the Bureau in the discharge of its proper functions under the administration of General Howard, is \$3,847,854.39. That is all the money that has been taken from the Treasury of the United States for this Bureau from the beginning down to the 1st of January last. In addition to that sum, the Bureau was compelled to set apart, from moneys appropriated by Congress, \$500,000 for the supply of food to the starving and destitute white and colored men in the South, under a resolution which was passed by Congress on the 30th of March, 1867; and in addition to that, it has applied the sum of \$50,000, transferred by Congress from the Bureau to the Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of supplying to the Southern States seeds for their use during the year 1867. If these sums, not properly chargeable to the Freedmen's Bureau, are added to the moneys expended for the use of the Bureau, the whole amount would be \$4,397,854.39."

Mr. Eliot, after defending at some length the Bureau from assaults made upon it by its foes, and describing the condition of affairs when General Howard assumed charge of it, thus epitomizes its work:

"General Howard organized the Bureau by selecting assistant commissioners and placing them in charge of their respective districts. Reports have continually been made by them and through the Commissioner, to Congress, of all their doings. The great work of the Bureau was distributed under different divisions.

"1. That of labor, including supplies for the destitute, white and colored. Regulations for labor were prescribed, including oversight of contracts, and care that freedmen should be fairly paid, and not treated as slaves. This involved the whole administration of 'justice' between employer and employed.

"2. That of finance, including disbursements and accounting for all moneys, however received; including, also, the care of bounties to colored soldiers, all moneys on account of which have been paid over to the soldier without charge.

"3. That of lands and claims, including investigation of claims for pay and bounty, all claims being examined and put in shape for adjustment by the Second Auditor; including, also, the case of abandoned lands, and of their restoration to former owners by orders of the President.

"4. The quartermaster's division, including transportation to officers, agents, refugees, and freedmen; including rental, repairs, and construction of buildings for hospitals and schools; including the school division, arranging for records of all schools, for regular reports, for needful regulations, and protection of white and colored children.

"5. That of medicine, including all supplies, and the care of the sick, and of those whom slavery had crippled.

"In the departments of labor, of justice, and of education, the great and permanent value of

this Bureau will be found. But at this moment, if the protecting care of the General Government, feared by those whose hearts are rebel, as their hands were hostile during the war, should be removed, there is no doubt at all that schools would be abolished and a war upon the freedmen be begun. There are now 238,343 scholars receiving instruction in these schools. The teachers are chiefly supplied and paid by Northern and Western benevolent associations. The school-houses are mainly built from private funds of freedmen and contributions from loyal men. School-houses are in some places rented and everywhere protected by the Government, and it is this protection which is needed, and without which they can not be continued."

From several letters received by Mr. Eliot from the South, testifying to the importance of continuing the Bureau, we select one or two sample witnesses to its worth and work.

BARTON, JEFFERSON CO., GA.,  
No. 11, C. R. R., Jan. 31, 1868.

DEAR SIR: From my experience as agent of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands in this State, I am convinced that the suspension of the Bureau would be a worse disaster than has ever yet befallen the freedmen. While there are a few planters who are disposed to deal fairly with the freedman—giving him his just rights and dues—there are vast numbers who would (were it not for the protection afforded by this Bureau) crush them below their former condition as slaves. But little can be done for them in the civil courts. Upon slight pretexts, the freedman is shot down like a dog. In my division, sub-district of Savannah, three murders have recently occurred; and were it not for the troops under my control many more murders would doubtless be committed. The freedmen beg me to appeal to you in their behalf; and, if possible, extend the limit of the duration of the Bureau. I endeavor to look at this subject calmly and dispassionately, and I am thoroughly convinced that the welfare of the freedmen, the peace of the country, the dearest rights of humanity, all can and will be promoted by its continuance, and suffer if it be not continued. The Bureau is doing a great work; it is establishing schools, promoting the interests of a despised and down-trodden race. All the nobler emotions of the heart, Christianity, charity, justice, demand that this, the only safeguard, be left yet a little while longer, until a long oppressed and ignorant people can have time to gather strength and knowledge to assert their manhood and pursue their avocations honestly, proudly, and successfully as free men amid the shocks of persecution, the storms of prejudice, and the fire of rebel hatred and revenge. In behalf of the millions who are struggling to be men, I appeal to your honorable and patriotic body, and respectfully, yet most earnestly, recommend that the Bureau be continued.

In haste, very respectfully, etc.,

WILLIAM O. MOFFITT,  
Agent Bureau.

Honorable T. D. ELIOT, Chairman, etc.

ROCKY COMFORT, ARKANSAS,  
Jan. 16, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to suggest the following reasons why the Bureau should be continued at least one year beyond the time now limited by law:

1. Because the civil authority is still in the hands of ex-rebels in the greater part of Arkansas, who will not take any action on complaints made by freedmen against white men, but punish misdemeanors on the part of freedmen with the utmost extent of the law and with injustice.

Teachers would be compelled to leave the country because of desperadoes who would break up the schools were it not for the Bureau and military authority. For an example, in my district, a little more than a year ago, an old man, intent upon doing good, commenced teaching a colored school in Sevier county, and on one Sunday a noted desperado came along with his gun and revolver—an every-day appendage in this county—and called all of the scholars out in line and compelled them to tear their books in pieces and throw them in the ditch, at the same time threatening the teacher, with a rope about his neck and tied to a tree, if ever he were caught teaching a "nigger school again."

2. The Bureau ought to be continued one year from next July, in order to facilitate schools and education among the freedmen generally. The matter of ameliorating the moral condition of the colored race in the South, especially in Arkansas and Texas, is comparatively in its incipency; and it is well known that, should the Bureau be abandoned in this State, schools would not long survive for want of protection and assistance, which has heretofore been given by the Bureau. To withdraw the protection of the Bureau now would be like "planting the seed in good ground and letting the thorns spring up and choke it."

3. The Bureau should be continued one year longer to act as a sort of moderator between white and black during the exciting contest now impending over the whole country. It can thus assist wonderfully in reconstructing the South on a loyal basis. To continue the Bureau one year more than is provided will cover most all the exciting political issues about to be made in the election for President, and this is of no little importance to the whole country.

If the Bureau could be continued one year longer than next July, the freedmen would, in the mean time, become much better educated in the duties of citizenship, and prejudice would nearly wear away.

Yours very respectfully,

HIRAM F. WILLIS,

Late Second Lieut. 22d Regiment V. R. C., Agent  
B. R., F., and A. L.

Hon. T. D. ELIOT, Chairman, etc., D. C.

Our readers will agree with us in congratulating the South, and in commending the action of Congress in the continuance of that necessary corollary of Emancipation, the pro-

tection of the weak and the feeble in the South—the Freedman's Bureau.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FROM REV. J. S. DORE, UNIONTOWN.

As we look over our little field and note some of the changes which two short years have wrought, changes which some persons would deem themselves justified in dignifying as *wonderful*, we can not help feeling a degree of honest pride, mingled with humble gratitude to God, for having been pleased to use your unworthy teachers, in part, in effecting the same. The colored people here had the reputation of being somewhat demoralized. True it was that several drinking shops were well patronized, street broils were of frequent occurrence, religious meetings often disturbed, etc., etc. Now we have no grog-shop within one mile of our schools, and a marked improvement is noticeable in the deportment of nearly all. That others have observed the same as above mentioned, I quote from a statement made last year by Dr. W. W. Godding, Commissioner of Common Schools.

"Rev. J. S. Dore has had charge of the Colored Schools in the Seventh District of Washington county during the school year of 1866 and 1867, and during a part of the previous year. The number of pupils under his care has never been as low as one hundred, and much of the time has been as high as one hundred and seventy-five. The people were formerly known as a *hard set*. The school now takes the first rank of schools, both in deportment and scholarship, in the District. Parents and pupils, all manifest an interest in it. This change may be fairly attributable to the personal efforts of Mr. Dore."

Another fact worthy of notice is that quite a large proportion of our people have become landholders, thus establishing the character of being *permanent* settlers. Some few have already got their little homes all paid for, but many are still struggling with a small debt. A few will doubtless fail; the many will succeed. We established the first Sabbath-school in this place; now we have two schools. One is in connection with the Good-Hope, and one with the Howard schools. It seems quite *home-like* in our Good-Hope Sabbath-School. We have a library containing 300 volumes, maps of Palestine, etc., and a melodeon. I need not say that the little ones enjoy the music. The ability to *make* and *enjoy* music is the same with us as with the colored people generally.

### DELAWARE.

FROM WILLIAM AIKMAN, WILMINGTON.

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT :

DEAR SIR : Among our most interesting schools here in Wilmington are the two so-called normal schools. I say "so called," because they are not wholly such. While they have a number of pupils in both departments, male and female, who are preparing to become teachers, we have been compelled, from the impossibility of filling the schools with a sufficient number of a higher grade of scholarship, to admit many who are advanced but little beyond the rudiments. The marked success which has attended the efficient labors of the teachers, Messrs. McFadden and Bickford, has been very gratifying.

Miss McFadden, the Principal of the male department, invited a few friends to a sort of extemporized examination a few days since, so as to exhibit the progress and proficiency of her pupils. The result was exceedingly creditable both to her skill and patience, as well as to the intelligence and industry of her scholars. In geography, spelling, and arithmetic, the progress shown by the classes was as great, and the attainments were as high, as your correspondent has ever seen in pupils of the same grade, while in grammar it was superior. We have never seen pupils so young of any complexion who seemed to show so clear and intelligent acquaintance with etymology and syntax as they. Miss McFadden found that the use of a text-book in this department of study was not of much account; and while she has had her scholars commit the main rules to memory from a single grammar, has for the most part taught her classes orally. The interest she has been able to create, and the success which she has had in it, demonstrate its wisdom.

These accomplished teachers, sent by your Association to us, we value most highly; and we consider them invaluable to our work in Delaware.

### Pennsylvania Branch.

WE beg of those friends who leave their homes in the summer season, to remember their subscriptions for the support of our schools. We have every encouragement from the South to press on in our work with unabated zeal; and we look confidently for the continued support of those who have hitherto held up our hands.

As, however, a little forgetfulness on the part of our subscribers may greatly embarrass us,



when we send out our teachers again in the Fall, we call attention betimes to this matter.

We feel great pleasure in calling attention to any marks of friendliness on the part of the Southern people toward our schools, whether by individuals or communities.

The information contained in the short letter from Mr. McCulloch, of Huntsville, Alabama, which we publish this month, is of a remarkable and encouraging character, while here and there through the South the freed people have begun to coöperate with the Commission in supporting the schools. In Huntsville, where they are too poor to render any assistance of the kind, some of the most influential white citizens have subscribed one hundred dollars (\$100) toward the support of Mr. McCulloch's school.

This is the more remarkable, as a school for poor white children has lately been opened in his place.

In the appeal, which sets forth the duty of a generous support of this undertaking, the argument used was, that while so much was done by Northern instrumentalities, exclusively for the education of negroes, the South should do its utmost to give all classes of white children the means of education, and thus maintain the supremacy of the white race.

This, it will be remembered, was stated at length in Mr. McCulloch's letter, published in the April number.

While regretting the spirit of this appeal, we feel that a good work has been done by our schools, if their success has awakened in the South a sense of the necessity of education for all classes.

We rejoice that a school has been established in Huntsville for those poor whites whom pride or prejudice hindered from attending ours; and we rejoice yet more that the first free gift has now been made by white citizens of a Southern town, to the schools of the American Freedman's Union Commission.

### WASHINGTON, D. C.

FROM MISS P. S. CHAMBERLAIN.

To S. L. BALDWIN, Cor. Sec. W. F. R. A.

DEAR MADAM: The boxes which were sent from Philadelphia nearly a week ago, did not arrive until yesterday. I need not say that they were very acceptable, nor that I was quite delighted with their contents. You would have realized that if you could have been here to see us open the boxes and take out the articles one by one till the last one was examined, although

we knew that every one must be put back again, and the boxes renailed before they were carried to Georgetown for distribution.

The package of seeds was very acceptable, and I spent some time yesterday afternoon in dividing them into smaller parcels for distribution. They came at just the right time, too. Some of them I have given to Mrs. Martha Washington, the woman who does our work, and who has a little garden patch of her own. Others I carried this morning to an old friend of ours, who lives very near us in a little hovel, not one half as good as the stables and barns of the people at home. Her name is Sophia Bush, but she is to us, of course, "Aunt Sophie." Aunt Sophie is now nearly one hundred years old, but retains her faculties, and I think her memory, to a remarkable degree. She was born in the West-Indies, but I think her owner moved to Georgia and then to Washington when she was quite a young woman. She has many a story to tell of plantation life, but she takes most delight in calling back the days when she was hired out, and lived with John Quincy Adams and his family at the White House. "Ah!" she will say, "Misser Adams was one fine man, one fine man! 'Pears like we don't have any Presidents nowadays like him, 'cept Misser Lincoln." The latter name is, of course, a magic word to all the colored people here. Aunt Sophie does not go out much in the winter, but in the warm spring weather she crawls out and hoes a little in her garden. She was much delighted with the seeds, a pair of stockings, and one of those neckerchiefs which were in the box. She said, when I gave them to her, "Ah, honey! I felt as if you were coming to bring me something today." Then she insisted upon my accepting two eggs, which she informed me were the first of the season.

School goes on very much as usual. Last month we had a large promotion in all the rooms, to accommodate a number of small children who were kept at home in the winter. I received from the room below mine thirty scholars, and sent about the same number to the next higher room. It seems almost like having an entirely new school, and makes rather hard work for us; but then, there are so many children who ought to be in school, that we accept the situation, and try to do the best we can for them.

I am quite sure there will be exquisite delight for me in seeing the bright faces to-morrow, when the new dresses will be donned, and the little feet incased in strong, new shoes, and

I wish to thank you and the other ladies again for the pleasure it will afford me to distribute the articles so kindly sent.

Very truly your friend,

P. S. CHAMBERLAIN.

### VIRGINIA.

FROM JOHN L. SHARPE, CITY POINT.

THE following letter is from a new school, one of the four supported by the Church of the Holy Trinity:

ROBERT R. CORSON:

DEAR SIR: I am happy to say that the flocks under my charge are improving every day. Most of those who began with their alphabet are now able to read in the primer, and I also feel proud of the geography classes. For the past two weeks there has not been a single question missed by them. In fact, they are improving in all their studies, and seem to have learned that education is better than silver or gold. They also take a deep interest in the Bible class. My rule is that they study a chapter three times a week, and after they have recited I explain it to them. Several of them have been taken into the church within the last two weeks. God grant that they may fight manfully under Christ's banner for the remainder of their lives. It is my sincere prayer.

### MISSISSIPPI.

FROM RACHEL LA RUE, DR. TUCKER'S PLANTATION, OKOLONA.

TO THE DORCAS SOCIETY OF GRACE CHURCH, MOUNT AIRY, PA.:

DEAR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS: The very valuable box of clothing from your Society was received on the 17th inst. Although I am truly grateful for your kindness and generosity in favoring our school, I find it almost as difficult to express myself as did old Uncle Zadok, who, when I gave him one of the flannel shirts from the box, said: "I do thank you for it; *my heart says thank you*, but you can't see it." He is ninety-five years old, and is active and intelligent. One of his daughters declared her mother looked "just like a butterfly" in the new calico dress given to her from the box. We have been distributing nearly every day, after school, since the box came, until to-day, when I gave out the last article suitable for this season's wear.

The buttons, needles, thimbles, and spools of cotton comprise a fine little stock from which to draw to supply the needs of our frequent applicants. From the twenty-four yards of flannel

we cut three full-sized shirts and ten skirts for very small children. The light cloth sack was given to a very bright little girl, who thought it much too nice to wear with her old dress, and although she could not get a dress too, she says she thanks the little girl who sent her the pretty sack. This and the girl's hat, and the three boys' suits, attract the particular attention of the scholars in Sabbath-school.

Aunt Susie, our good cook, to whom the black zephyr hood was given, says she is just as proud of it as she can be. It is just what she has been wanting ever since her William died, five years ago. Over one of our scholars, who has just gone out, we have had a hearty laugh. He brought a chicken, and said, "Miss Black, mother says, here's a chicken for you to send her a blanket." It would have been a great pleasure to give him a blanket without the chicken, but they are all disposed of. I was very glad to give one to a poor woman, who wished me to bring her two from the North when I came.

I was happy to be able to give something to old Aunt Violet, who much desired that I should bring her "a carpet-bag full of nice clothes." She says, "I'm all alone in the world, missus; no one to take care of me, and it seems as I works as hard as sich a poor old body is 'spected to work, and yet can't git any thing to help me along."

A walk of about fifteen minutes through oak groves brings us to the lower plantation; over about three acres of this are scattered perhaps twenty log-cabins, all of which were occupied by one or more families last year, but now only seven of the old families remain; for, as Dr. T. does not intend to rent this tract this year, the laborers were not needed, and those freedmen who are still there have rented small tracts of the owner. These removals have made a decrease of more than half of our former scholars. We were very much grieved to have it so at first, but since we have had great cause for thankfulness, as we have reason to hope that those who have gone away impart to others more ignorant than themselves what little they have acquired. We know of two of our men who have already commenced a night-school. They can both read and write very well, and have a little knowledge of arithmetic and geography. In a letter received a few days since, a woman writes, "I want to teach in night-school many as I can, man, woman, and children. I want to teach them what I know about A, B, C, D, E, F, G. I want to teach the way from here to heaven, and the Word of God."

Another one, a girl, writes, "Me and my sister Epsie is going to open night-school to teach the black people. They say we are the (most) sensible people that ever they saw before. They say they will give us any price to carry them through one book, they want to learn so bad, and come here every Sunday to hear us read and spell. Miss La Rue, I want you to send me one dress, if you please, mam. I miss the Sunday-school so much, and I want you to send me one very interesting book, if you please, mam." One of our boys writes, "Me and Shadrach is setting down our meal and meat, we are keeping our day-books, and we sets every little thing down we gets, and some of us gets a dollar a month a keeping day-book for them," (some of the freedmen.)

On our school list are but 130 names: but I think we will have more as the weather moderates. We have had some severe weather for this climate.

The progress in the school since our return is quite marked. Some of the scholars are very ambitious. The first class in night-school are performing examples in reduction. They have a daily lesson in geography and definitions, and get a little knowledge of grammar from dictation, writing the rules upon their slates and learning them.

FROM MISS BLACKMAN, OKOLONA.

ROBERT R. CORSON, Cor. Sec., etc., Phila. Pa.:

Your favor of the 9th inst. brought great joy in the hope it allowed us of seeing the boxes so long delayed. Our Northern friends kindly supply us with religious and other papers, which we distribute after reading.

Many of the garden seeds have already sprung up. We have lately received a package of flower seeds of desirable varieties. I hope the cultivation of flowers may have a refining influence upon our poor women.

*Thursday Morning.*—This is a glorious day. The jessamine near our door is in full bloom, filling the air with delicious sweetness. Every day the scholars bring into the school-room bunches of flowers and branches of blooming trees. Both freedmen and planters seem to have caught the spirit of exertion everywhere apparent in nature; but the repeal of the cotton tax has doubtless greatly conduced to this.

Last night there were 73 in the adult school, making the number taught yesterday 118. There have been more than that. The school is pleasant, and we greatly enjoy our work.

Miss Chamberlain and Miss Shackford came over to see us on the 7th inst., and were "rain-

bound" over Sabbath. Dr. Tucker came in and invited them to use a room in his house for the nights, which especially accommodated us. The ladies needed rest, and we were very glad any thing obliged them to stay. We could have no Sabbath-school, as the rain came "in sheets;" and of course their scholars lost no more than ours.

We have a Cold-Water Army, over one hundred strong, though we have refused to enlist boys under 14, until they can more fully realize all the pledge involves. When the novelty of our movement is worn off, we shall trust them.

### ALABAMA.

FROM A. W. MCCULLING, HUNTSVILLE.

The box of clothes came on Monday, 16th. A part of them are distributed. The friends of the cause which I represent have subscribed \$100 for the Pa. Branch A. F. U. Commission—I mean the friends living in Huntsville. This money I will send you when it is paid to me. The subscribers are all white men, and men of influence. The colored are too poor to subscribe.

## New-York Branch.

### SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE NEW-YORK BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN FREEDMAN'S UNION COMMISSION.

The year just closing has been characterized by steady, persevering effort in the collection of money at the North, and thorough, systematic teaching at the South; the enthusiastic support and devotion which have marked former periods have been succeeded by an intelligent earnestness and a disciplined efficiency.

The financial report, herewith annexed, shows the aggregate amount of contributions for the support of the work during the year to be with-in \$16,060.67 of the total for the preceding year, a gratifying comparison when the changed financial condition of the country is considered, for our receipts have undoubtedly been diminished by the commercial disorganizations which have this year prevailed. Some of our expectations of support, based upon the collecting experiences of former years, have also been disappointed; but still we have great cause for satisfaction and encouragement, and reason to trust in the unabated interest of those who have hitherto supported us.

One essential element of success during the past year has been the provision, which was



made by the Committee on Correspondence and Organization the previous year, in anticipation of our necessities for the opening of the school season. The reserved fund which was accumulated, amounting to \$6664.31, enabled us to commence the work with vigor and confidence at its appointed time. A similar effort now, in anticipation of the needs of the year to come, would, it is believed, be attended by the same beneficial results.

Your Committee herewith present a statement of the estimated liabilities of the Association to July 1st, 1868, and, in addition, have prepared a brief exhibit of its present property, interests, and liabilities.

*Financial Report of the Executive Committee of the New-York Branch of the American Freedman's Union Commission, from 1st April, 1867, to 1st April, 1868.*

1867.

Apr. 1. Balance on hand, per statement rendered.....	\$101 21
Received from Mr. E. F. Davison, Treasurer.....	70,150 00
From other sources.....	8,305 14
	<hr/>
	\$78,556 35

*Payments.*

Salaries, board, and rent of teachers' homes.....	\$67,378 51
Merchandise, chiefly books..	4,030 23
Supplies, furniture for homes, etc.....	1,885 62
Transportation of teachers..	655 16
Incidental expenses.....	3,724 43
Publishing THE FREEDMAN,	629 00
Postage and revenue stamps,	373 35
Freight and cartage.....	305 04
	<hr/>
	\$78,483 23

Balance on hand, ... \$74 12

E. C. ESTES, *Secretary.*

NEW-YORK, 1st April, 1868.

All of the teachers' homes are furnished with the essentials of living, and inquiries concerning the same have been addressed to the various superintendents. The buildings formerly owned by the Association at Beaufort, S. C., have been sold.

Our work is saddened as we miss from our counsels and our sympathies those whose loss during the year we have been called to mourn. Mr. J. B. Collins, who died September 16th, 1867, was one of the originators of the Association; he labored with us until his

strength failed, encouraging, inspiring, and directing. By the death of Col. George F. Noyes, in January, 1868, we lost an eloquent advocate and an earnest, devoted associate. We have also to deplore the loss of Wilson Armistead, of Leeds, England, a liberal, large-hearted friend to the cause of education among the freedmen.

Your Committee have had under serious consideration the question of our course after the termination of this year. Evidences are given us to warrant the belief, that after one more year we may be able to resign our work to those to whom it legitimately belongs—the people of the South. The report of the Freedman's Bureau for the year 1867 exhibits four thousand six hundred and sixty-one pupils, as receiving instruction in the "higher branches." We would therefore recommend to your Board the adoption of a plan of operations for the coming year, which shall include a selection of teachers from these advanced pupils; that Northern teachers be appointed chiefly as principals; that the work of the year be mainly directed to systemization and organization preparatory to the execution of a purpose to relinquish the work at the close of the school season of 1869.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY A. DIKE, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE.

THE Committee on Correspondence, etc., reports that during the past year the number of Auxiliaries has been reduced to 313, and many of these are merely nominal societies; but it has also the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt from them of \$39,307.73, with promises of \$9679.73 more to come. Although this is not more than half as much as was paid into the treasury of the Association from the country last year, it must be remembered that these societies are still working on the impulse given them by the agents who canvassed for us in 1866. Since that time little or nothing has been done to quicken their interest. There are now at work 44 teachers, who are supported by 23 individual societies, and 10 others by groups of societies combining to raise the money.

In view of the pressing need of keeping the schools open at least one year more, the Committee is ready to pledge itself to renewed effort; and would recommend that the next school term should be opened by commissioning 100 teachers, 50 of them to be selected from the best of those now employed, and 50 assistant teachers selected from our best scho-

lars. This arrangement would reduce the average cost, because colored teachers living at home can be employed at \$20 a month, and they incur no travelling expenses; and we believe that many more societies would be ready to pledge themselves to support a teacher at \$375 than at \$500.

The Committee propose to ask Mr. Kennedy to devote six weeks in May and June to canvassing in Maine; and after the teachers have all returned, to visit the larger societies, or organize new ones in our own State. We shall need two more agents, to canvass some important counties which have done nothing this year, as Otsego, Madison, Monroe, Chemung, and Delaware. Some such effort will be necessary to secure continued support from our correspondents.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS.

The Committee on Teachers presented the following report of their work for the year: They have commissioned and employed, since October 1st, 1867, 4 superintendents, 2 matrons of homes, and 136 teachers. Twenty of these teachers are in Delaware and Maryland; we pay their salaries, not their board, and they report to associations organized in those States. The remainder receive every thing from us, and are responsible alone to us. They come from many places: New-York gives 53; Massachusetts, 17; Connecticut, 19; Maine, 12; Virginia, 3; New-Jersey, 4; New-Hampshire, 7; Vermont, 5; North-Carolina, 3; Canada, 3; Pennsylvania, 4; District of Columbia, 4; Sandwich Islands, 1; 24 of them are colored. Our teachers represent different religious communions: Baptist, 37; Methodist Episcopal, 30; Congregationalists, 28; Presbyterian, 10; Episcopal, 10; Dutch Reformed, 2; Wesleyan Methodist, 1; Christian, 1; Unitarian, 7; Roman Catholic, 1; Swedenborgian, 1.

These teachers have charge of 50 stations, in seven States and in the District of Columbia. This District, including Washington, has 2; Virginia has 9; North-Carolina has 7; South-Carolina has 6; Florida has 6, and Tennessee has 1; Delaware has 6; Maryland, 13. Of normal schools we have 2; of normal classes in common schools we have 23; the pupils in these higher classes may be regarded as in course of training for teachers, and will be prepared, whenever occasion demands or opportunity offers, to aid in the general work of education. In all the schools, excluding those in Delaware and Maryland, we have an average total enrolment per month of 5869 pupils. . . . 5869

A total average attendance per month, . . . 4463  
The average enrolment, per teacher, . . . 55  
The average attendance, per teacher, . . . 43

There are night-schools in Staunton, Raleigh, New-Berne, Trent Camp, Elizabeth City, Oxford, Plymouth, Chester, and for a single month in St. Augustine. But the night-schools have not been well attended, the average being less than that of the day-schools, by one third, two thirds, and even, in places, three quarters.

The Committee, feeling the importance of cultivating the morals of the black people, as well as the advantage of aiding the economies of the Association, early considered the question of inducing or obliging the negroes to contribute something toward the support of their own schools, and they addressed a memorial to General Howard, requesting him, through his agents, to ascertain approximately how much might be expected in this way, and to organize educational societies in the Southern States, for the purpose of interesting the people, and engaging them in the work of assisting the Northern Associations in the effort of maintaining teachers. Thus far no results have been arrived at sufficiently accurate or nice to be detailed in a report. We have at present no means of knowing what proportion of the expense of the schools may, another season, be expected from the blacks themselves, or whether any definite proportion can be exacted. We hope that during the summer information will come in that will enable us to reckon confidently on far more help from the South than we have thus far received. In most places, the black people are disposed to do what they can. A diligent, well-planned attempt to draw out their resources would probably yield better returns than most of us would look for, but our Association has not, in view of the cost, felt justified in making such an attempt. Still, unsystematic as all this part of our work has been, and has from necessity been, twenty-one of these schools have paid, in the shape of tuition fees, in the course of five months ending March 1st, \$1038.83. A portion of this money has been remitted to us for payment of salaries; the rest has been used for the supply of fuel for the schools, and for other necessary expenses connected with them. The two schools in Richmond contributed, in the month of March, \$102.87. "The schools are every way benefited by the collection; the attendance is more steady, and the interest greater," so writes Mr. Manly.

In view of the work that has been done, and still more of the work that remains to be done, the Committee feel constrained to plead earnest-

ly for a continuance of their educational operations in the Southern States. The effort of the past year has been most encouraging. Never before were our schools in so satisfactory a condition as now; never so well furnished, never so well arranged and disciplined. Our teachers are, for the most part, select persons of character and experience; our pupils are interested and diligent. Mr. Newton writes: "Of 33 pupils who commenced the alphabet the present term, 16 have, in less than 6 months, completed the Primer, and 4 have made considerable progress in the Second Reader." This state of comparative excellence has been reached slowly and painfully. We are setting an admirable example to the Southern people of what popular schools ought to be, and it would, in our judgment, be a great mistake to discontinue our operations at the very moment of their greatest completeness and their greatest utility.

If we could stop our work, withdraw our forces, and bequeath the results, as they are, to the Southern people in tolerable certainty that they would abide, and be perpetuated by an appreciative public, it would be well for us to retire. But this cannot be hoped for. The Southern people have as yet adopted no common-school system; the black people have arranged no system for themselves, nor are they able immediately to do so; to withdraw our teachers would be to close the schools entirely, and not only leave unimpressed the hundreds of thousands of children who need instruction, but leave unprovided the thousands whose education we have begun. The blacks have not been prepared for the cessation of our schools; they have had no warning; they have had neither time nor encouragement to collect their own resources. The relations at present existing between them and the whites are still too delicate and uncomfortable to make self-support in such a matter possible. Their industry is not sufficiently developed to give them resources; their civil and social status is not sufficiently established to make them safe; their ambition is not sufficiently stimulated for an undertaking of such magnitude.

For some of our operations, and the most important of them, we must have more time to establish what we have but commenced. Our Normal Schools, on which so much of the future depends, are just beginning to meet our expectations; to close them would be like letting fall the chief agent of our usefulness, and would, besides, be depriving the South of the best specimens we can furnish of our Northern method of instruction. We have not to any consider-

able extent been able to employ black teachers, for the reason that few are competent for any but the most rudimentary instruction, and it must be evident that until they can be employed, and can prove their capacity, and their right to be employed, the black schools, left to themselves, will maintain a feeble and precarious existence. The white schools will naturally receive most favor from the public. The best white teachers will be engaged for them, and unless the negroes have teachers of their own, qualified by training in the Normal Schools supported by Northern help, their education must fall far behind.

For these reasons, the Committee on Teachers urge warmly a persistence in the efforts thus far so earnest and so successful. They do not, however, suggest, nor would they encourage the idea, that these efforts be made for an indefinite time henceforth; on the contrary, they would recommend that they be limited to as short a period as possible. A twelvemonth from the close of the present term has been suggested as a proper time for closing our work. It is thought that this will give time to prepare for withdrawal, by stimulating the black people to co-operation and self-support, by introducing them into the work as teachers to a more considerable extent than hitherto, and by establishing our normal institutions on a more satisfactory basis. It is, indeed, to be hoped that in a year the process of national reconstruction will be so advanced as to afford the blacks greater opportunity than they now enjoy for improving their advantages. Should that be the case, the Southern communities may begin to adopt some educational plan of their own which will more than justify the cessation of our efforts. At all events, whether these anticipations be well founded or not, we shall be authorized to withdraw in accordance with our expressed intention, without falling under the imputation of weakness.

But for the difficulty of raising money for our work, the thought of its discontinuance would not be entertained. That difficulty has been formidable, and would be more formidable from year to year as enthusiasm in it declines. This difficulty, it is urged, will be greatly diminished by limiting the term of our existence as a society, and by distinctly proclaiming that we shall ask no more money after the year 1868-9. One effort more can certainly be made successfully.

The Committee on Teachers feel the force of these suggestions. They have no doubt that a promise made to the auxiliary societies to limit their work to another year, and to make no de-

mands on them after that time, would enable them to raise more money immediately. They are willing to recommend that a strong hope of this kind be held out; they are willing to announce a purpose to suspend operations at the close of the next year, June 30th, 1869, provided circumstances make it permissible for them to do so. They are willing to express their faith that the heaviest part of their labor will be over by that time; but they are not quite prepared to declare positively that their office will be closed. The Normal Schools, as yet, as we have seen, in their infancy, will probably require continued aid, even if the common schools are relinquished, and we should not like to cut ourselves off from the opportunity of rendering aid to them. Nor is it at all certain that the common schools can be altogether abandoned. A Republican victory in the Presidential campaign may stimulate us to new exertions under more favorable auspices. A Democratic victory may make a fresh demand on our consciences. In either case, we might regret a step too hastily taken.

The Committee propose certain changes next year that will make possible a reduction of expense should it be necessary. From Washington, Petersburg, Uniontown, and Aiken, S. C., they will withdraw entirely. At other places, as Richmond, Alexandria, Raleigh, Emmaus, Lawrencoville, New-Berne, Plymouth, Columbia, Greenville, they will reduce expense greatly by employing in different ratios colored teachers, and by making the colored people responsible for the teachers' board. If they can by this means diminish the average cost of each teacher by \$100 or \$150, making it \$350 instead of \$500, the same number we have at present can be maintained for less money, or a larger number for the same money.

The details of this plan have not been fully elaborated, nor can they be just now; but the calculation has been approximated.

In conclusion, the Committee recommend the publication of a circular containing a stirring appeal, based on the satisfactory condition of our work, and the hope that another strong effort may enable us to carry it through as far as duty requires, in case no untoward circumstances impede.

O. B. FROTHINGHAM.

## Correspondence.

### MARYLAND.

FROM M. L. HOY, DAVIDSONVILLE.

THE Scripture Charts and Tracts which were sent to me by the Commission were gratefully received, and I assure you they have become quite serviceable in my Sunday-school, which is at present in a progressive state. I have 67 pupils, who are divided into four classes, namely, Alphabet, Spelling, First Reader, and the Testament; Catechism, Answers to Scripture Questions, and Hymns are recited by the school. I am pleasantly engaged three hours each Sunday in my school, and never feel happier than when I am thus employed.

Although my communication with friends is nearly prohibited, (for my letters seldom pass unless I send them to Annapolis, which is not always convenient,) nevertheless, I feel that there are many with me in the good work, and I am often encouraged with the following words:

"Teachers will gain their rich reward  
Of all their toil and care."

It affords me great pleasure to know that I am contributing to the happiness of my fellow-men.

We have a new school-house which is also devoted for a house of worship. We were obliged to burn wood last winter because we were unable to get coal, and, as the house is large and open, we suffered much from cold.

I have 87 pupils, including day and night, and the progress they have made since November is astonishing. I commenced with them in the alphabet, and now 53 are in the First Reader, 2 in the Second, and 6 in the Third; 40 write on slates, 3 in copy-books; 37 in Primary Arithmetic; 15 in Written Arithmetic; 12 recite geography. They are easily controlled, and good discipline prevails. Parents tell me that their children both love and fear me. I open at 10 A.M., close at 3 P.M.; reopen at 8 P.M., close at 10½ P.M. More than two thirds of my scholars are males.

On Saturdays my time is improved in reading to the sick and aged.

I address my people quite often in regard to self-respect, which I consider as an indispensable requisite. My efforts have not been in vain, for I find that the nicknames which were common at my arrival, such as Uncle Jack, Aunt Sallie, etc., are nearly done away with, and the respectable names of Mr. and Mrs. Brown have succeeded. They come to school in their very

best attire, and as they enter the door, they bow politely and take their seats with an air that denotes respect. We have a temperance society, called the High-Style Division of the Vanguard of Freedom, and we have 20 members enrolled. I earnestly pray we will be enabled to encourage more to join us and forsake the evil path which they are now pursuing. I gave a lecture on the 10th ultimo, upon Education and Temperance. The roads at that time were nearly impassable, so we only realized sufficient to get a cord of wood for school and church purposes. The lecture will be repeated (if naught prevents) on Easter Monday, and several poetical recitations will be delivered upon temperance and intemperance by members of the Society. We will also have a festival soon.

The whites are opposed to the school, and do all they can to prevent their servants from attending.

The colored people have no homes of their own. They live on the farms where they are employed. There is but one person that will sell them ground to build upon. A great many of my pupils tell me they cannot get the money they labor for, and if they ask for it, they get an order, instead, for provisions.

A great many children would come to school if they were not greatly in need of clothing. I wish some kind friend North would send me a box of clothing to distribute among the most needy of these children. I also need books for my Sunday-school; Union First Readers and particularly Testaments. I have visited families here, and found, to my sad surprise, that they were destitute of Bibles! Please do all you can to help us, and God will certainly reward you.

With kindest regards, I remain yours, for the elevation of my people,

M. D. Hoy.

FROM MISS K. E. GOULD, LEONARDTOWN.

LEONARDTOWN, MD., April 10, 1868.

DEAR MISS COLLINS:

As regards the scholars, I will say that bad roads (terrible they are) and unusually severe and stormy weather, combined with the fact that many of the pupils live at a distance of from two to seven miles from the school-house, are some of the causes of a want of punctuality. Perhaps it would be well for me to state that a large number are "hired out" by the month, and are subjected to the caprices of a people who do not intend (if they can help it) their

employees to find time to attend school. During the month of January our average was over thirty, while that of the white girls' school was four, and the boys less than a dozen.

Perhaps you are not aware that the school-houses in this county are to be paid for by the colored people in part this year. The "Bureau" furnishes only "planks" and the bricks for chimneys. Plastering materials, stove, (cost nearly \$18), lamps, oil, fuel, etc., are supplied by freedmen.

The "Bureau officers" and teachers are by special orders enjoined to see that the debts on school-houses are paid. The necessity of this is shown by the *continued* and *determined* opposition of the whites toward any thing calculated to improve the conditions of the blacks. It is also ordered that the Freedmen receive such instructions as shall make them a self-sustaining people, for they can *never* become a *much* respected race until they are such.

Thus far a single school-book has not been given them, and nearly all own books. In this place alone they have purchased over \$40 worth of books.

Besides the school debts, they are paying the board and washing of their teachers. My expenses are \$18 per month, and they are all paid up to this month.

When the school opened, the debt was over \$90. It is now reduced to \$50, which we hope to get paid by June 30th. We have also had some incidental expenses, which are all paid. Including money collected for debt, board, and incidentals, we have raised, since Nov. 23d, 1867, to April 1st, 1868, \$110.16. Collections for this month will be in my next report. "The teacher" of this place acts as secretary, treasurer, disbursing clerk, collector, teacher, or in any way that will help "the cause" along, and as the freedmen may request.

The freedmen have done well, when it is remembered that but one man in the district gets over \$12 per month and an allowance of bacon and meal; women never over \$5. There are some half a dozen men who had given from \$5 to \$10 apiece to "the captain" before "the teacher" came.

We have the only plastered school-house in the country. *Much credit* is due Capt. Lawrence, "Bureau Agent," for his continued and praiseworthy efforts in erecting school-houses in this county. He personally superintends the putting-up of the frames and in-door arrangements. There is no pupil in my school that I could conscientiously recommend to "the so-



clety" for a teacher. In accordance with good judgment it would be an impossibility. I have three little girls whom I *would like* to become teachers, the eldest of whom is only ten years of age. The "captain" has taken her into his family, and should she continue to show ability, she will be fitted for a teacher. The other girls are quite young, and are being brought up very well at home, and will not be old enough to teach in ten years to come. I *could* not recommend *any* of the older pupils for teachers, as the immorality of the inhabitants of this place, both white and black, is *dreadful*. Before coming to this place I had had several years' experience among the freedmen, and yet nowhere have I found the amount of degradation, ignorance, and vice as exists here. It was perfectly appalling to me. *Nowhere* have I seen the marriage relation so disregarded and violated as *here*. The "captain," Mrs. L., and myself are using all our influence to bring about a better state of things. Neither would I recommend a colored teacher for *this place* another year, but rather some *white lady* who knows and *realizes* the difficulties and discomforts of a teacher's life among the freedmen. Please do not consider *me* an applicant for the place, for it is *not now my intention* to teach another year; but I feel that these scholars are "*my people*," and I would like to see them safe on the road to an intellectual, moral, and religious improvement. Had I not been actuated by a *sincere* desire to elevate and improve their condition, I should have long ere this left for *home*; but I could not bear to leave them just as a ray of light seemed to glimmer over their horizon. I think it will be safe for me to say that I have gained their respect, love, and confidence in spite of the efforts of the whites to overthrow my influence over them. The whites are more bitter than ever since the impeachment. My standing in society, according to their opinion, is even lower than that of the black woman. It is hard sometimes to bear all this, but good cannot be accomplished without difficulty. A Sabbath-school was commenced last Sunday. Mrs. L. will assist me. All my scholars but three or four are Roman Catholics. Much more could be said, but I fear to weary your patience. If I *could have* a few papers and books published by the "Tract Society," I should be glad. I shall pass through New-York on my way to my home in New-Haven, and shall be glad to represent the teachers of the county if agreeable.

Respectfully,

K. E. GOULD,  
Leonardtown, Md.OFFICE SUPT. COLORED SCHOOLS,  
CORNER 17TH AND I STREETS,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4, 1868.REV. CRAMMOND KENNEDY, Cor. Soc. N. Y.  
Branch Com.:

DEAR SIR: Accompanying this, you will find the Teachers' Report of their schools for the month of March.

A summary of the statistics shows that the average number of pupils belonging to the eight schools during the month was 405, and the average attendance was 379, being 94 per cent of the membership. The teachers have, with slight exceptions, enjoyed excellent health, and have pursued their labors with marked success; and the schools, in most respects, fully maintain the high reputation they have heretofore enjoyed for excellence in discipline and thoroughness of instruction. The evils of tardiness and irregularity of attendance have been much reduced of late.

I find that of 33 pupils who commenced the alphabet in these schools the present term, 16 have, in less than six months, completed the Primer, and 4 have made considerable progress in the Second Reader. When you remember that *one year* is the usual time allotted to the same Primer, in the *white* schools of our Northern cities, you can judge of the comparative rate of progress which these colored pupils are capable of making.

I regret to say that the municipal authorities still find means to withhold the payment of the funds due to the colored schools of this city, and the salaries of the teachers, except the few still sustained by Northern benevolence, are unpaid for the last month. It is to be hoped that when Congress gets through with the important work of impeachment, it will find time to give this matter a little proper attention.

Very truly yours,

A. E. NEWTON, Supt.

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**VIRGINIA.**

FROM REV. R. M. MANLY, RICHMOND.

In reply to your inquiries relating to our reports of "punctuality," I would say:

1. Our standard is that a scholar is "punctual" if he is in his seat precisely at nine o'clock, at which moment the schools all open. Any thing later than that certainly is *not punctual*, and certainly is *tardy*, whatever it may be called. Moreover, we argued, that if a point of time was to be fixed, beyond which would be tardiness, it might as well be fixed at nine as at quarter past nine, so far as the convenience of the people is concerned; and much better, so far as the welfare of the schools is concerned.

Moreover, if the pupils are to have fifteen minutes' *leeway* because they haven't clocks, they can just as well take that *leeway* before nine as after.

2. We compel punctuality by not admitting the scholars to the school-room after nine. When the bell has done ringing, the doors are locked; the scholars are in their seats, and worship and work proceed in quietness and order. We except from this rule those who have a standing necessity for tardiness, as servants in white families, etc., and they are admitted when they come, and marked tardy. It is well known to every teacher that nineteen-twentieths of all ordinary cases of tardiness are the result of carelessness. We make the parents and pupils subject their *convenience* to the necessity of the school. Exactly correct habits in this regard are just as easily formed as tolerably good habits.

The result has been most gratifying. Very few of those who attempt to come to school on any day fail to be there in time; and those who do fail are not likely to be careless again for some time. The schools are better attended, better disciplined, and better instructed.

I endeavor to have the reports entirely accurate and just, and glad to know that they pass under a careful inspection in New-York.

Very respectfully,

R. M. MANLY, *Supt. Education.*

FROM MR. A. C. BURBANK, LAWRENCEVILLE.

I have the pleasure to transmit accompanying school report for month of March. I am thankful that I am able to present an increased attendance in the aggregate, while the average attendance is nearly proportional to that of last month. The state of the weather during the month has been very favorable to the interest of our schools, having been quite free from the usual disagreeable rainy season, so that the children have come in from the remoter parts of the school circuit. Then, again, the interest has been very perceptibly enhanced in the use of the very liberal supply of slates sent by the Commission. We all, both pupils and teachers, return the Commission our warmest thanks for them, and rest assured that the little ones, as well as the larger, are making, and evidently will continue to make, the best possible use of them. I have undertaken, during this month, to agitate the question of temperance in a practical way; that is to say, of those belonging to our schools forty-two have signed the pledge, and in the course of the next month we hope, with a little outside influence, if it can possibly be enlisted, to perfect a society organization.

Thus far all efforts outside of our schools in this cause have been quite unavailing. The people, colored and white, are wedded to their habits of tippling, and for the freedmen thus to rid themselves of no inconsiderable portion of their scanty earnings should constitute a subject of serious consideration in the minds of those interested in their welfare; hence every solicitation, and, perhaps, too frequent reference to this subject. We propose to go on with our work, however, with or without the countenance and support of the adults, or young men, even. In a word, I think that I may safely state that the school interests of the freedmen in this community have been, at no time since the organization, in a more prosperous or favorable condition than at present. On Monday (March 30th) we closed our night-school for the season, the same having been in operation successfully since last October, and we are now having two sessions daily.

#### NORTH-CAROLINA.

FROM MISS FANNIE GRAVES, RALEIGH.

We organized, a few weeks since, the Estes Division of the Vanguard of Freedom, and now have over 200 members. We explained to the pupils that the name was in honor of one of their friends and benefactors in New-York, and they seemed much pleased. We have been gratified by our success and the interest manifested in our temperance meetings. Nearly all the young men from sixteen to twenty, though at first reluctant to give up tobacco, have joined. They appointed suitable officers from their number, who fill their positions with great dignity. The meetings are opened with reading the Scriptures and prayer by the Chaplain, whose impressive manner would grace a pulpit. Our Scribe, a young man of seventeen, who learned his letters of me not three years since, has reported the Division to A. E. Newton, the General Secretary at Washington, in a very well-written letter. We expect to unite with other Divisions in a temperance celebration on the 1st of May. We have sent money for badges, which most will be able to purchase at five cents each, but have no banner, and are hoping that some benevolent individual may assist us in obtaining one. We have only taken in a few of our younger pupils, but all seem to understand the duties devolving upon them, and to wish to be faithful to their pledges. Said one little boy, who had never been noted for good behavior, of one of his comrades, "That boy is not fittin'

to belong to our Society, 'cause he's been a cussin.'" Another little fellow, with a penitent air, raised his left hand in token of having broken the pledge. When asked if he had been chewing tobacco, he said, "No, but he done cussed." You must not suppose that our scholars are much in the habit of using profane language, as we rarely hear of it, but they are much exposed to temptation in this respect, as well as to the other vices mentioned. We hope that our organization will be productive of much good.

### FLORIDA.

MISS M. E. STRATTON, JACKSONVILLE.

I HAVE dressed a day or two in sending reports, so I could give you an account of the exhibition which took place last night. Some of the members of the church in which we hold our school were anxious to raise money enough to clear them from a debt of long standing, and wanted our help, which we cheerfully granted them. So, for more than a month, I have been drilling the scholars in the pieces selected for them, (often to a great disadvantage, as some of them worked every day, and had no time to rehearse.) I hardly think I am a competent judge of the exercises, as I was behind the curtain directing, and it had grown very stale and tedious to me. We arranged a platform large enough to hold seventy children, with curtains made of an immense flag, which we obtained from camp. The children were all prettily dressed—the girls mostly in white—and the scene was certainly suggestive, if nothing more, as the beautiful flag hung over those seventy black boys and girls, and they sang most impressively, "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord," to the "John Brown" chorus, followed by Whittier's hymn, "Oh! none in all the world before," spoken by one of my smartest boys, who has been obliged to leave school to work in the mill. The other pieces followed in pleasant succession, a very interesting feature being the presentation of flags by Mr. Dennett. These flags, two handsome ones of silk, were put up during the war in the St. John Street Sunday-School, New-Haven, by one of Connecticut's bravest sons, whose last words to the school were, "Take care of the flags, children." He passed through many a hard battle for liberty unscathed, till, at the battle of Deep Bottom, a bullet aimed too surely shot out both of his eyes, and after lingering two or three days, the great Father took him up to his rest. To the Lincoln School, in Jacksonville, the St. John Street School has

sent kindly greeting with these mementoes, that they whom he died to save may "take care of the flags," always remembering their protection is only in them. After Mr. Dennett's speech, a young man received the flags and nailed them up, while the children sang that fine song, "Our beautiful flag," which was followed by "No slave beneath that starry flag," rendered in a very earnest manner by one of our boys. In short, I think of no blunders to report, and there was no prompting. Music on the cabinet organ was furnished us by Miss Wilder. The house was crowded, a large number being Northern people who are spending the winter here; and I am glad to be able to tell you that there were actually a few Southerners there, one of whom, an ex-Confederate, seemed very decidedly pleased and interested, and said he thought the audience was "quite spotted." Mr. Cheney, editor of the *Union*, very kindly inserted an advertisement for us, and printed one hundred tickets without compensation. A few refreshments (ice-cream, etc.) were brought in and very quickly sold after the exercises. I hear they made about fifty dollars. To-night they are to have a supper, and from both evenings they hope to free themselves from debt.

### RECEIPTS.

BY EDWARD F. DAVISON, TREASURER, FROM MARCH 16TH to APRIL 23D, 1868.

#### From Agents.

Rev. Mr. Bradshaw, March 23d, \$70. Rev. W. R. Long, March 23d, \$105; March 28th, \$200; April 4th, \$177; April 14th, \$138; April 18th, \$138.76; April 23d, \$135.40. Rev. E. Brett, March 27th, \$100; April 4th, \$100; April 14th, \$41; April 23d, \$50. Rev. E. Colton, March 27th, \$357.48; April 14th, \$54.95. Rev. Wm. Bradley, April 3d, \$349.50. Rev. R. Pierce, April 9th, \$90; April 23d, \$97.

#### From Auxiliary Societies.

Newburyport, Mass., \$100; Cannonsville, \$5; Malone, \$47; North-Shore, \$253; Champlain, \$54.11; Sherburne, \$15.15; Lockport, \$125; Port Henry, \$51.50; Irvington, \$135; Peekskill, \$44.37; Buffalo, \$375; Yonkers, \$780; Canandaigua, \$125; Fergusonville, \$8; Ogdensburg, \$125; Ludlowville, \$25.

#### Miscellaneous.

Lowell School, Plymouth, N. C., \$10; Freedmen's Bureau, \$40.85; Anonymous, \$5; Nancy Atwater, New-Haven, Ct., \$30; M. D. Lockwood, Binghamton, N. Y., \$4; Ch. Teneyck, \$5; Mrs. Henry G. De Forrest, N. Y., \$25; Miss M. M. Brown, Cabin Hill, \$5; Geo. Bliss, Jr., N. Y., \$25; John H. White, \$10; Freedmen's Union Commission, \$30.30; Miss S. M. Hitchcock, N. Y., \$50; Miss A. Hitchcock, \$50; Rockland Female Institute, Nyack, \$38.30; Miss Mary Freeman, \$5; Am. Miss. Assoc. for Books, \$373.03; C. T. Bush, Canadice, \$10; A. T. Winch, Canadice, \$5; Books, sale of, at Jacksonville, Fla., \$14.29; Mrs. E. P. Howard, Delhi, \$2; Mrs. Jos. Sampson, N. Y., \$150.

